

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1 to 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is increased or decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein an increase in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound increases said activity.

↳ no nexus between fluorescence & activity.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein said fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound, wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp, wherein an increase in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound increases said activity.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound which increases the activity of efp increases ~~the~~ an activity of other protein(s) essential for the functioning of efp.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound;
- (b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp; and
- (c) determining whether said compound that increases the activity of efp increases ~~the~~ an activity of a L16 protein.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

9 to 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a natural source.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a prokaryotic organism.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, and an *Enterococcus* species.

19 to 139. (Canceled)

140. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating ~~the~~ an activity of ~~a~~ L16 protein }
comprising contacting said L16 protein in association with efp with an oxazolidinone compound.

141. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating ~~the~~ an activity of a L16 protein comprising }
contacting said L16 protein in association with efp with an oxazolidinone compound, wherein
said L16 protein in association with efp is in a cell or cell preparation.

142. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is increased or decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein a decrease in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound decreases said activity.

143. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein said fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound, wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp, wherein a decrease in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound decreases said activity.

144. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound;
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp; and
- (c) determining whether said compound which decreases the activity of efp increases ~~the~~ an activity of other protein(s) essential for the functioning of efp.

145. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound;
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp; and
- (c) determining whether said compound that decreases the activity of efp decreases ~~the~~ an activity of a L16 protein.

146. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

147. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a natural source.

148. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a prokaryotic organism.

149. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria.

150. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~the~~ an activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting efp with a compound; and
- (b) determining whether said compound decreases activity of efp, wherein efp is isolated from a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, and an *Enterococcus* species.